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TECHNICAL NOTE

FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN KOUCHIBOUGUAC NATIONAL PARK IN 1989

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly monitor national parks for forest insect and disease conditions.

The following is a brief report on some of the insects and diseases found throughout Kouchibouguac National Park in 1989, and which are likely to reoccur in 1990.

Spruce budworm, the best known forest pest in New Brunswick, caused light defoliation on balsam fir and white spruce. Predictions for 1990 are for trace defoliation only.

Gypsy moth is a major pest of forest and shade trees in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, and the northeastern United States. It has recently been found in southwestern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia. The hairy larvae are distinguished by the five pairs of blue and six pairs of red dots along their back. In Kouchibouguac National Park, the adult pheromone trapping program continued in 1989 with assistance from Park staff. No moths were caught in the 15 traps returned and no other life stages of the gypsy moth were found in the Park. Although gypsy moth is likely not present in the Park now, it could be accidentally introduced; therefore, visitors are requested to report any suspected gypsy moth to park personnel.

Uglynest caterpillar and fall webworm construct tents of white silky material, visible from May to September, on a variety of shrubs and small trees. Nests of both pests were noticeable but scattered throughout the Park.

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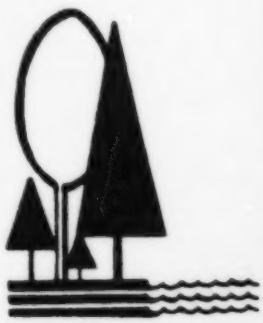

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Physical injury, caused by human activities such as lawn-mower damage, heavy foot-traffic, and branch breakage and scarring, was manifested as twig and branch dieback and foliage discoloration of planted sugar maple and ash at South Kouchibouguac Campground.

Needle rust of balsam fir, which requires an alternate host, like fireweed or blueberry, to complete its life cycle, causes current needles to turn yellow in mid-summer. Although observed at several locations in the Park it was most common and severe on trees near the Patterson picnic site.

Cherry blight, which wilts and curls pin cherry leaves, turning them reddish brown in early spring, was common in the Park but was most noticeable at South Kouchibouguac Campground.

Trembling aspen, a common tree species in the Park, was host to a number of insect and disease pests. **Poplar serpentine leafminer**, evidenced by the zig-zag pattern of damage, was more common throughout the Park than last year, averaging 25% of leaves damaged. Several species of **aspen leafrollers** caused light damage at Rankin Brook. **Aspen webworm** webbed 21% of leaves on all of the trees at Loggiecroft, while **hypoxylon canker**, a serious branch and stem disease, was observed throughout the Park, affecting an average of 25% of mature trees. **Leaf and twig blight** occurred at low damage levels, less than the previous year.

White and wire birch, two other common Park tree species were host to several different organisms. **Birch casebearer**, with its cigar-shaped case of leaf fragments, browned foliage of both species and caused light levels of damage at Rankin Brook, Le Castor Trail, and Loggiecroft, and moderate damage at La Source Trail. A number of **birch leafroller** and **leaffolding species** were present on white birch and **spearmarked black moth**, a black looper that folds the leaf into a pocket, was present throughout but was most common at Loggiecroft on white birch. **Birch leafminer**, a tiny insect that feeds between leaf surfaces producing a blotch mine, was still present at Kelly's Beach at light levels of damage, though not as severe as in previous years.

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